IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14 to 16, 32 to 35, 49 to 51, 67 to 70, 74 and 121 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, as currently pending in the application, read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said method comprising the steps of:

reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and ~~having~~ comprising descriptor components ~~having~~ ~~attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, at least one of said~~ ~~axes of access being a~~ classified as either table-of-contents ~~classification, each~~ descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component ~~having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification also~~ having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

displaying items for selection, each displayed item ~~in accordance with an~~ ~~attribute representative of a first axis of access that is the table-of-contents classification~~ ~~independently of the content of said resources, each item being associated with a~~ corresponding to a table-of-contents descriptor component of a description read in said reading step;

receiving a ~~first~~ selection of one or more ~~descriptor components using the~~ of said displayed items;

~~receiving an indication of a further axis of access;~~

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displaying ~~, in response to the received indication,~~ further items for selection, ~~in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access independently of the content of the resources,~~ the further items corresponding to ~~child~~ index descriptor components ~~of the first~~ that are associated with the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more items; ~~descriptor components; and~~

~~reading, in response to a second selection of said child~~

receiving a selection of one of said further items;

receiving a representative value associated with said selected further item;

forming a query from the index descriptor component ~~having an attribute~~ corresponding to said selected further item and said received representative ~~of the~~ value;

searching said read description to return one or more table-of-contents ~~classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected child~~ descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-contents descriptor ~~component~~ components corresponding to the selected one or more items; and

displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said one or more returned table-of-contents descriptor components.

2. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein each description read in said reading step is represented by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification~~ comprising the further step of viewing, in response to a selection of one of said still further displayed items, the portion of the electronically-accessible resources corresponding to the table-of-contents descriptor component linked to by the selected still further displayed item.

5. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the descriptions of the resources are generated using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

7. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are a persistent item of the description scheme.

8. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

9. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

10. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

11. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

12. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

13. to 16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[16]] 1, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred classified to be a table of content table-of-contents descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a resource or a section of a resource.

18. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 17, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred classified to be an index descriptor if the

descriptor component is not ~~inferred~~ classified to be a ~~table of contents~~ table-of-contents descriptor.

19. to 35. (Cancelled).

36. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said apparatus comprising:

means for reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and ~~having~~ comprising descriptor components ~~having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, at least one of said axes of access being a~~ classified as either table-of-contents ~~classification, each~~ descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component ~~component having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification also~~ having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

means for displaying items for selection, each displayed item ~~in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is the table-of-contents classification independently of the content of said resources, each item being associated with a~~ corresponding to a table-of-contents descriptor component of a description read by said reading means;

means for receiving a ~~first~~ selection of one or more of said displayed items;

means for displaying further items for selection, the further items corresponding to index descriptor components ~~using the displayed~~ that are associated with

the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more items;

means for receiving ~~an indication of~~ a selection of one of said further items; ~~axis of access;~~

~~means for displaying, in response to the received indication, further items for selection in accordance with an attribute~~

means for receiving a representative ~~of the further axis of access, independently of the content of the resources, the~~ value associated with said selected further item;

means for forming a query from the index descriptor component corresponding to said selected further item and said received representative value;

means for searching said read description to return one or more table-of-contents descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more items; and

means for displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to ~~child~~ said one or more returned table-of-contents descriptor components. ~~of the first selected one or more descriptor components; and~~

~~means for reading, in response to a second selection of said child descriptor component having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of the selected child descriptor component.~~

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein said means for reading the descriptions represents each description by a tree of descriptor components, and one or more of the descriptor components have descriptor components as descendants.

38. (Cancelled).

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, ~~wherein one of the axes of access is an index classification~~ further comprising viewing means for viewing, in response to a selection of one of said still further displayed items, the portion of the electronically-accessible resources corresponding to the table-of-contents descriptor component linked to by the selected still further displayed item.

40. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the descriptions of the resources are provided using a description scheme as a template, and the description scheme uses a declarative description definition language which contains definitions for descriptor components of the descriptions of the resources.

41. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are defined in the description scheme.

42. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are persistent items of the description scheme.

43. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 40, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated by an application when required.

44. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the attributes of the descriptor components are instantiated using a rule that is associated with the description scheme.

45. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise digital audiovisual content.

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic document or resource available over the World Wide Web.

47. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 36, wherein the resources comprise an electronic device.

48. to 51. (Cancelled).

52. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim [[51]] 36, wherein an attribute of a descriptor component is inferred classified to be a table of content

table-of-contents descriptor if the descriptor component contains a reference to a ~~resources~~ resource or a section of a resource.

53. (Currently Amended) An apparatus as claimed in claim 52, wherein ~~an attribute of~~ a descriptor component is ~~inferred~~ classified to be an index descriptor if the descriptor component is not ~~inferred~~ classified to be a ~~table-of-contents~~ table-of-contents descriptor.

54. to 70. (Cancelled).

71. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, having ~~comprising~~ a computer program recorded thereon, where the program is executable to perform a procedure for browsing electronically-accessible resources using descriptions of the resources, said computer program comprising:

code for reading the descriptions of the resources, the descriptions being separate from the content of the resources and ~~having~~ comprising descriptor components ~~having attributes representative of at least two axes of access to the resources, at least one of said axes of access being a~~ classified as either table-of-contents ~~classification, each~~ descriptor components or index descriptor components, each said table-of-contents descriptor component ~~having an attribute representative of the table-of-contents classification also~~ having a link to a corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources;

code for displaying items for selection, each displayed item ~~in accordance with an attribute representative of a first axis of access that is the table-of-contents classification independently of the content of said resources, each item being associated with a~~ corresponding to a table-of-contents descriptor component of a description read [[in]] said reading [[step]] code;

code for receiving a ~~first~~ selection of one or more ~~descriptor components using the~~ of said displayed items;

~~code for receiving an indication of a further axis of access;~~

code for displaying ~~, in response to the received indication,~~ further items for selection, ~~in accordance with an attribute representative of the further axis of access independently of the content of said resources,~~ the further items corresponding to ~~child~~ index descriptor components ~~of the first~~ that are associated with the one or more table-of-contents descriptor components corresponding to the selected one or more items; ~~descriptor components; and~~

~~code for reading, in response to a second selection of said child~~

code for receiving a selection of one of said further items;

code for receiving a representative value associated with said selected further item;

code for forming a query from the index descriptor component ~~having an attribute~~ corresponding to said selected further item and said received representative ~~of the~~ value;

code for searching said read description to return one or more table-of-contents ~~classification, a portion of the electronically-accessible resources via the link of~~

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~~the selected child~~ descriptor components that satisfy said query and are contained in the one or more table-of-contents descriptor ~~component~~ components corresponding to the selected one or more items; and

code for displaying for selection one or more still further items corresponding to said one or more returned table-of-contents descriptor components.

72. to 118. (Cancelled).

119. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources is a spatially localized extent of the resources.

120. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the corresponding portion of the electronically-accessible resources is a temporally localized extent of the resources.

121. (Cancelled).